



SUMMER 2022

AUL JAYLAND WALKER STATEMENT

The Akron Urban League grieves with the community for the senseless killing of Jayland Walker, a 25-year-old Black man whose body was riddled with 60 bullets by several Akron Police officers. WE empathize and offer our condolences to Jayland's family, who described him as a sweet and kind young man who never caused any trouble. WE stand with the family and community and demand transparency from the Akron Police Department. WE urge the Akron Police Department to act swiftly and release all information about his death to ensure justice for Jayland and his family.

Unfortunately, Jayland Walker joins a long list of Black men and women killed by the police. According to data collected by Mapping the Violence, Black people are still killed at a higher rate than any other group. Nationally, Black people comprise 13 percent of the US population, yet they account for 27 percent of those killed by police in 2021. The National Urban League and its' affiliates are supporters of the Justice in Policing Act, which is a comprehensive approach to hold police accountable, end racial profiling, change the culture of law enforcement, empower communities, and build trust between law enforcement and our communities by addressing systemic racism and bias to help save lives.

"Our prayers are with the Walker family as they mourn the loss of their loved one. We join them and the community to seek truth, justice, accountability, and harmony in this disturbing incident. We encourage protesters to engage peacefully. As more details unfold and the body-worn camera footage is reviewed and released, we urge for prompt justice for Jayland's family. The officers involved in the fatal shooting of Jayland Walker need to answer for this brutal loss of life," said Teresa R. LeGrair, President & CEO of the Akron Urban League.

"The AUL board of directors stand in solidarity with the Akron community in seeking justice, truth, and transparency about the circumstances surrounding Jayland Walker's shooting death. We must not forget that racial justice is non-negotiable and has to be sought after every single day," said Atty. H Alan Rothenbuecher, Akron Urban League Board Chair.



SUMMER 2022

JAYLAND WALKER JOINT STATEMENT FROM AUL + NUL

“My heart is heavy after learning of yet another unarmed black man whose life was taken so violently and suddenly at the hands of police,” said Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League. “Jayland Walker was pulled over for a routine traffic stop. Instead, he lost his life at the hands of eight officers who shot at him – one young man – at least 60 times. No matter the ultimate contributing factors, we know that this is the very definition of excessive force. These officers must be held accountable for each and every bullet because it is hard to imagine 60 shots were justified. We cannot sit idly by and watch as officers abuse the public’s trust and take for granted the lives of Black men and women. Our Black lives must matter to them. Although President Biden passed an executive order on policing that would create a new national database of police misconduct, mandate the adoption of body-worn camera policies, and revise use of force policies, Congress still needs to pass legislation like the George Floyd Justice in Policing act to codify these practices into law. Jayland Walker and the others who have lost their lives deserve justice and this nation has a responsibility to make sure they get it.”

“Jayland Walker’s death, just like so many others, will forever change the Akron community,” said Teresa LeGrair, President and CEO of the Akron Urban League. “Akron is home to hundreds of thousands of people who work here and who live here. This is our home, and we deserve to feel safe in it. Police officers have a duty to protect and serve our communities, and all citizens who live within them. This senseless tragedy is one that Black people are all too familiar with and is the direct result of policies, procedures, and attitudes that the Urban League and other advocates have fought for years to eliminate. The Urban League sends its prayers to Jayland’s family and loved ones, and we are relieved to see that these eight officers are off the streets at least temporarily, but this is just a start. We will be working to ensure the police department and, if needed, the Department of Justice conducts a thorough investigation into how this stop was handled and how Jayland could have been shot 60 times. Moreover, we will continue to urge our national leaders to create a national standard to hold police officers accountable for their actions on the force and keep our communities safe from perpetrators – no matter who they are.”



SUMMER 2022

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUMMER CAMP?

Every day, our Summer Camp begins with a morning meeting. During this meeting, social-emotional learning is incorporated with Zones of Regulation. This curriculum allows campers to state their feelings relating to colored zones and, most importantly, how to self-regulate to remain in the Green Zone.

Campers are immersed in STEAM learning throughout the day. They participate in Mad Science in the morning, where they have experienced the Flight Academy, Camp Eureka, and Brixology. These inquiry-based STEAM lessons allow students to tap into their problem-solving and critical thinking skills while designing, engineering, and tackling real-world issues.

They look forward to a catered lunch from A Taste of Fine Dining daily. After running off calories during recess, they spend their afternoons with Crayola's Imagination Arts Academy. Our campers inspect wildlife and recreate what they've seen through portraits, Lego, and clay. They round out the week with a Fun Friday Field Trip. So far, our campers have raced at the Soap Box Derby, ballroom danced with Dancing Classrooms, and scouted out the wildlife at the Akron Zoo!



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MEET THE MCCAP COHORTS

The **Minority Contractor Capital Access Program** (MCCAP) is a collaboration between the **Western Reserve Community Fund** and the **Akron Urban League** that provides financial and technical assistance to Akron and Summit County-based minority, women, LGBTQ+, Veteran, and Disabled-owned businesses in the construction trades. Eligible businesses apply and are evaluated based on need, experience, and growth potential. Once accepted, those businesses are given the opportunity to apply for financial assistance in the form of short-term loans to pay for costs related to specific construction contracts. Participants are also connected to educational resources, including training and certification programs to help their business grow. The program is designed to support minority-owned and disadvantaged construction businesses and provide them with the best tools for long-term success and stability.



OUR MCCAP TEAM

Larry Chadwick, Gail Wilson, Teressa Grimes and James Watkins. Not pictured - Kyle Julien and Rachel Bridenstine.



COHORT 2

ShaRonda Sammons, Halle Jones-Capers, Sidney and Bethany Richards. Not pictured - Aulden Knight, Robert Johnson, Nikki and Tori Durham and Amanda Martin.



COHORT 3

Tracey Griggs, Jason Pribanich, Ashanti Geniec. Not pictured - Amanda Kruse.

MBAC SPOTLIGHT

The Akron **Minority Business Assistance Center's** (MBAC) mission is to identify small disadvantaged, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses in Ohio to cultivate their growth and sustainability. We have helped thousands of small businesses grow by assisting them to scale, adopt new practices, become better marketers, increase customer retention, get further funding, and more. Our job is to be the coach and cheer squad, helping entrepreneurs thrive.

MBAC is excited to highlight the businesses we have assisted in getting their State of Ohio Certifications in 2022. We commend them for persevering through this rigorous process to certify or re-certify their businesses as MBE, EDGE, WBE, and/or VBE businesses. These certifications will help them obtain state government contracts for goods and services and secure private procurement opportunities.

Let's congratulate them for becoming **State of Ohio Certified Businesses!**

CONGRATULATIONS!

S3 Technologies	WBE
Eric Garrett Construction	MBE, EDGE
EM Painting LLC	MBE, EDGE
B's Trucking Company	MBE, EDGE
Studio Trendz, Inc	MBE, WBE
Worthy Construction Group 2G, LLC	MBE, EDGE
CLC Transport, LLC	MBE, EDGE
Paradigm Electric	MBE
Sallie's Wholesale & Construction, INC	MBE, EDGE
AGM Energy Services	MBE
Oh My Yum	MBE, EDGE
Social Enterprise Solutions	VBE
Fulfillment Micro Farms, LTD	VBE
Vicinity, Inc.	MBE
Mason Construction and Concrete, LLC	MBE, EDGE
Always Inspired Healthcare, LLC	MBE, EDGE
CodeXcellence	MBE, EDGE
Family 1st Mobile Notary	MBE

**"To be successful,
you have to have
your heart in your
business, and your
business in your
heart."**

THOMAS WATSON, SR.,
FORMER CEO, IBM

OUR MBAC TEAM

Pictured left to right

Larry Chadwick, Misty
Rogers, Natasha
Bishop, LaQuinta
Sojourner and Chevin
Meadows



2022 PRIME DAY

Prime Day deals will begin on Tuesday, **July 12** and run through **July 13**. Prime Day deals are among the retailer's best sales of the year, undercut only by Black Friday. The retail giant will offer massive discounts on all things Amazon-related. Fire TV Sticks, Fire tablets, Fire TVs, and Amazon's entire lineup of smart devices will see their lowest prices of the year.

DON'T FORGET TO SMILE!

When shopping at Amazon on Prime Day or any day, don't forget to SMILE!

What is Amazon Smile?

Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon. It features the same products at the same prices as the standard Amazon site. The only difference is that when you shop on Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the cost of all eligible products to your chosen charity. There are millions of eligible products available!

How do I get to Amazon Smile?

To shop at Amazon Smile, visit smile.amazon.com on your computer, phone, or tablet. Select us, **Akron Community Service Center & Urban League**, and start shopping.

[Learn More Here.](#)

BACKPACK & VAX EVENT

Join us on August 5, 2022, at the AUL. Students are eligible for a free backpack filled with supplies. We'll have the mobile vaccination unit on site too. Free COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters are available for everyone ages six months and up. More details coming soon.

2022 GALA TICKETS

This year's gala: The Red Carpet Experience, is not to be missed. It is August 13, 2022, at the John S. Knight Center, and [tickets and sponsorships](#) are available now but will sell out quickly. Since 1925, thousands of Summit County residents have been assisted and inspired by educational, personal, and professional opportunities through the Akron Urban League. Your support will help us continue engaging, inspiring, and empowering our community. [Purchase your tickets today!](#)



Save the Date

INNERBELT REUNION

August 28, 2022. [More details](#) coming soon.

SEEDS FOR GROWTH

September 9, 2022. [More details](#) coming soon.



25 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME

Misty Rogers , Regional Director MBAC

Misty has served the Akron Urban League for 20 years. Here's her list in her own words.

1. My employment at the Akron Urban League started in 2002.
2. The person I admire most is my mother, the late Marilyn Rogers-Rivers.
3. All my mother's children's names start with the letter M.
4. Reading and writing (poetry specifically) is something I love to do.
5. Journaling is something I often do.
6. I have a black Golden Doodle named Bella.
7. Words I live by...have Faith, stay Hopeful, and spread Love.
8. I attend the Rock City Birmingham Church daily devotional online.
9. I am the proud mother of two sons (Earl and Montell) and three grandchildren (Ebony, Earl, and Eriel) – they are the best part of me.
10. Being a GED Instructor for over 12 years was one of my most rewarding work experiences.
11. I was a volunteer cheerleading coach for South Rangers Pee Wee Association which I also cheered for from B-team to Varsity.
12. I coached cheerleading for my HS Alma Mater “Garfield High School,” which I also cheered for in HS.
13. My hobbies include skating, fishing, shopping, vacationing, and more shopping!
14. I attended a naval base ROTC boot camp training in high school.
15. “Was ist das?” means What is that in German, and that is the only thing I remember from the German class I took at Rankin Elementary.
16. I experienced a Tear Gas Chamber simulator on a naval base in high school.
17. I learned how to patch up a hole in a ship and get to safety on a navy simulator ship.
18. As a youth, I danced in a group called “The Lady Players,” and we did a reunion performance in 2021 to Janet Jackson’s Rhythm Nation.
19. I have traveled to and vacationed in over 25 states.
20. I rode a horse down Mt. Lee mountains in California.
21. My most adventurous travels were in the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Punta Cana.
22. My mother, grandmother, and uncle named me, so I have two middle names.
23. Spending time with my family and friends is my favorite pastime.
24. I am a graduate of Class XLV Child and Family Leadership Exchange.
25. My favorite cake is chocolate cake.
26. ~BONUS~ I am getting married on August 6, 2022, to Stephen Beasley!

Misty Rogers



DONATE

Please consider making a small **donation** to support the programs that help the Greater Akron community. Our donors play a huge role in the success of the Akron Urban League. Through your generosity, we create meaningful change that impacts thousands of lives each year.

NEW STAFF

Welcome our two new MBAC business counselors. Meet **Chevin Meadows** and **LaQuinta Sojourner**.



With compassion and coaching in their DNA, what sets them apart is how they bring their capabilities together, making the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Their approach to business transformation is a unique fusion of strategy and experience.

Zulekha Sharp is Executive Assistant to the CEO. She has extensive administrative, project coordinating and relationship management skills. She is responsible for providing comprehensive support to the CEO and Board of Directors. Before joining the Akron Urban League, in addition to providing Executive-level support, Zulekha worked in call center supervisory and corporate event management roles.

Read the rest of her bio [here](#).



JUNETEENTH VAX & VOTE BLITZ

On June 19, 1865, Union Army General Gordon Granger announced freedom for people enslaved in Texas, the last remaining state with institutional slavery in the former Confederacy. Today, the anniversary of that proclamation is celebrated as Juneteenth — officially declared a federal holiday one year ago.

Our FREEDOM DAY event brought over 100 people to celebrate with us, the kickoff to the Juneteenth weekend. Included in the day's revelry were voter registration booths and the mobile COVID-19 vaccination/booster unit. The community supported our celebration and came to have a great time. Festivities included a spotlight on AUL community programming and education, haircuts, manicures, massages, food, beverages, treat concessions, the Akron Fire Department Fire Truck, the Akron Police Department, and K-9 unit, local vendors, interactive games, raffles, and more.

"Our event was an amalgam of black history and local Akron experiences. As an organization, we are committed to cultivating inclusion, dignity, justice, and equality for all," said Alissa Shively, director of marketing and communications at the AUL. "We honored Juneteenth with a day of reflection and rejoicing. This holiday allows us to remember the lives of enslaved people and to recognize the contributions of members of the Black community," Shively said.

Thank you to all our partners who made this event a colossal success!

» [READ THE ABJ STORY](#)

» [SEE THE PHOTOS](#)

